

REC'D PCT/PTO 05 JUN 2002

Attorney Docket No.: Metal 1282-WCG  
: 99 00 82 US / A 7959

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) : Ferdinand FINKELDEI and Walter SCHNAUS  
PCT Application No. : PCT/EP00/05874  
For : METHOD OF CLEANING VALVES OR LINES  
Serial No. : To Be Assigned  
Filed : Herewith  
Art Unit : To Be Assigned  
Examiner : To Be Assigned

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December 17, 2001

BOX PCT  
Hon. Assistant Commissioner For Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In advance of prosecution, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the application as follows and consider the following remarks:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel all the claims and substitute the following:

Claim 5. Method of cleaning valves or lines through which hydrolysable polymers are transported in which, after the polymer stream has been shut off and the polymer has been evacuated, steam is passed through the valves or lines to be cleaned while the lines or valves to be cleaned are maintained at plus/minus 10°C of the